You must also ensure that the Intranet users feel they have a voice in its development and use. If people feel the Intranet is being forced on them and are not given an opportunity to express their opinions about its design, they are not likely to use it.

On a similar note, it is important to identify "owners" for the sections of the site. We approached this by assigning a portion of the site to each of the directorates in the organization, and the directors assigned a person to maintain their section of the Intranet.

Once the site is established, maintenance is much simpler; however, it is important to realize that developing an Intranet is a resource-intensive undertaking. You need to take the time to evaluate why you want to establish an Intranet and how your organization expects to benefit from it. Then you can determine if the expected benefits will outweigh the effort required to implement your Intranet site.

If you follow these recommendations, you should be able to set up a successful Intranet site for your organization, big or small. ◆

About the Author

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Coming Events

Software Quality Through Robust Testing
Dates: May 21, 1998
Location: Eatontown, N.J.
Subject: Year 2000 fixes, reduce testing time and cost, improve coverage, and find defects early.
Contact: Madhav Phadke, Voice: 732-577-2878; Fax: 732-577-2879; E-mail: Madhav_Phadke@ compuserve.com

7th IEEE North Atlantic Test Workshop
Dates: May 28-29, 1998
Location: West Greenwich, R.I.
Subject: Issues for the 21st Century: higher quality, more economical, and more efficient testing methodologies and designs.
Sponsor: IEEE Computer Society, Test Technology Technical Committee, University of Rhode Island
Contact: Jim Monzel, Voice: 802-769-6428; Fax: 802-769-7509, E-mail: jmonzel@vnet.ibm.com

Effective Methods of Defect Detection and Defect Prevention
Dates: June 2-4, 1998
Location: Seattle
Subject: Software quality decomposed into defect detection and defect prevention.

Sponsor: Quality Assurance Institute
Contact: Voice: 407-363-1111; Fax: 407-363-1112; Internet: http://www.qaiusa.com

5th International Conference on Software Reuse
Dates: June 2-5, 1998
Location: Victoria, British Columbia
Sponsor: IEEE Computer Society in cooperation with Association for Computing Machinery
Contact: Jeffrey S. Poulin, program co-chairman; Voice: 607-751-6899; Fax: 607-751-6025; E-mail: Jeffrey.Poulin @lmco.com

Second Workshop on Software Architectures in Product Line Acquisitions
Dates: June 8-10, 1998
Location: Hawthorne Hotel, Salem, Mass.
Subject: Applying software architecture technology to the acquisition of software-intensive product lines. Based on experiences, working groups will make recommendations to move to an architecture-based product line acquisition approach.
Contact: Lt. Col. Gene Glasser, E-mail: glassere@issc.belvoir.army.mil

15th International Conference on Testing Computer Software
Dates: June 8-12, 1998
Location: Washington, D.C.
Subject: "Testing Under Pressure," with emphasis on management strategies.
Sponsor: U.S. Professional Development Institute
Contact: Voice: 301-270-1033; Fax: 301-270-1040; E-mail: admin@uspdi.org; Internet: http://www.uspdi.org

4th Joint Avionics, Weapons, and Systems; Support, Software, and Simulation (JAWS S³) Symposium and Exhibition
Dates: June 15-19, 1998
Location: Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev.
Subject: "Meeting the Technology Needs of the War Fighter in the Year 2000 and Beyond"
Sponsors: Director, Test, Systems Engineering and Evaluation, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense; U.S. Navy, Avionics Department; U.S. Air Force, Embedded Computer Resources Support Improvement Program; JAWS S³ Working Group
Contact: http://jawswg.org